

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13, 15-18 and 25 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 13 is amended for clarity only to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In addition, new claim 25 is presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 13, 15, 17 and 18 were rejected over Bando (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,736) in view of Bovone (U.S. Patent No. 5,433,657) and Ercole et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,848,005). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the applied prior art combination does not disclose at least the following features:

a) wherein said arranging means includes a suction-cup supporting body for supporting said suction cups separately from said grinding supporting table, a suction-cup lifting device for raising the suction cup which is supported by said grinding supporting table or said suction-cup supporting body, and a suction-cup moving device which is adapted to move said suction cup raised by suction-cup lifting device from on said grinding supporting table onto said suction-cup supporting body or from on said suction-cup supporting body onto said grinding supporting table in correspondence with the shape of the glass plate whose peripheral edge is to be ground by said grinding means,

wherein said transporting means includes one lifting device for raising the glass plate to be carried in and another lifting device for raising the glass plate on the suction cup to be carried out,

b) wherein said transporting means and said suction-cup moving device share a slider to which said suction-cup lifting device, said one lifting device and said other lifting device are attached, and which is linearly movable in one direction,

c) wherein said arranging means is adapted to move said suction-cup lifting device by a linear movement of said slider in said one direction and a movement of said grinding supporting table of said grinding supporting means so as to be capable of arranging said suction-cup lifting device at a position corresponding to a shape of glass plate on said grinding supporting table.

According to our apparatus defined by claim 13 having especially the features a) to c), it may not be required to individually install a slider for moving a glass plate and a slider for moving a suction-cup, so that it is possible to simplify the structure of the glass-plate working apparatus. Further, the desired number of suction cups is flexibly arranged on said grinding supporting table in correspondence with the shape of the glass plate by said arranging means. Hence, the arrangement of claim 13 makes it possible to arrange said suction cup at a suitable position for sucking and holding the glass plate corresponding to each shape of glass plate.

In addition, Ercole et al. does not disclose that “the transporting means and the suction-cup moving device share a slider”. Therefore, the glass-plate working apparatus whose construction is simple such as set forth in claim 13 cannot be provided on the basis of the disclosure of Ercole et al.

Claim 16 was rejected based on the above combination, and further in view of Monforte (U.S. Patent No. 4,809,425). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least because claim 16 depends from claim 13, and is patentable by virtue of that dependency, in addition to the further features it recites.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-116.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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